

City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee

Meeting Notes

October 16, 2007

The City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee met on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 in the Atrium Room of the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

Members Present: Sheryl Gross-Glaser, Robert Patten, Greg Castano, Jay Ulfelder, Katherine Kelly, Dan Turner, Margaret Warner, Wolfgang Mergner

Members Absent: Jay Lee, Sanjay Grover

Staff Present: David Suls, Associate Planner

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

2. Approval of Minutes: review and vote on adoption

The minutes from the July 17th, 2007 meeting were reviewed and adopted unanimously. The notes from the September 18th, 2007 unofficial meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to include the notes in the Committee's record.

3. Action Items

The Committee was asked by staff to make a decision on this year's SRC outreach and capital projects.

Outreach: Dan Turner previously volunteered to write an article for the City newsletter on vegetation overgrowth. The Committee agreed that this article would be helpful. Wolfgang Mergner will work with Dan on writing the article and the Committee will wait to publish it until next Spring, when it will be more relevant again. Jay Ulfelder suggested hiring a writer to compose a series of articles in the Newsletter similar to Dr. Gridlock in the Washington Post.

Sidewalk Survey+ADA Accessibility Study: David Suls reported that the City has budgeted \$25k in FY08 for an ADA Accessibility Audit of right-of-way infrastructure and the City has received notice that it will be awarded \$45k for a citywide sidewalk survey. The resulting survey and audit will include a prioritized implementation schedule. The Committee discussed ways in which they can be involved in the process. Katherine Kelly suggested including a mailed survey

to increase the amount of community participation in the study; SRC funds would cover the extra cost of this survey if the city funds would not. Bob Patten suggested including community volunteers in the data collection part of the study as a way to get positive community involvement in the process; the consultants would train the volunteers on how to collect the data and the SRC would assist.

Dan Turner suggested that the Committee would be more helpful after the study by advocating for the installation of the identified ADA changes and new sidewalks. The Committee agreed.

Bike and Pedestrian Routes and Signage: Jay Ulfelder suggested that the Committee identify the main bicycle routes in the City and use the information to help create a prioritized list of capital improvements for bicyclists. It was mentioned that the City's Master Plan already has identified bicycle routes but these routes may be outdated. The Committee discussed ways to tie in the bicycle route idea with initial capital improvements that would be viable with the SRC's budget. The committee decided to fund the fabrication and installation of bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding signs based on the identified routes.

Action: There was a motion to allocate \$10,000 to the fabrication and installation of bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding signs. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Action: There was a motion to create a subcommittee for the two phased project of first, identifying the main routes and important destinations for signage and second, completing a citywide identification of bicycle routes including smaller neighborhood connections and wider connections to DC and County routes and destinations. Jay Ulfelder, Wolfgang Mergner, and Bob Patten volunteered to be on the subcommittee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Takoma Park Elementary School: Sheryl Gross-Glaser reported on MCPS' plans for a new parking lot and drop off area for Takoma Park Elementary School. The Committee was concerned with the addition of an active driveway on Philadelphia Avenue because of the safety of pedestrians walking along and crossing Philadelphia Avenue.

Action: There was a motion and it was seconded, to write a letter proposing that MCPS consider developing new alternatives that would greater address pedestrian safety. Sheryl Gross-Glaser volunteered to write the letter.

4. Announcements / Updates

November Meeting: The next meeting was changed to Tuesday, November 27th.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted

David Suls, Associate Planner

Approved

Robert Patten, Chair